

1 transaction interface, and said third document is in the possession of the buyer;
2 (i) said seller providing said first document to said financial institution; and
3 (j) said financial institution issuing a fifth document purporting to obligate said
4 financial institution to pay said seller a second payment.

6 2. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

7 (k) said buyer's transaction interface advising said financial institution of the receipt
8 by said buyer's transaction interface of said third document.

10 3. A method as in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

11 (l) said buyer's transaction agent paying said financial institution a third payment;
12 and

13 (m) said financial institution paying a fourth payment to the holder of said fifth
14 document.

4. A method as in claim 1, wherein said buyer notifies an administrator respecting the execution and sending of said first document having indicia purporting to legally bind the buyer upon the happening of an event and said second document having indicia indicating information describing a commercial transaction.

21 5. A method as in claim 1, wherein said event is the transporting said goods or
22 performing said services and embodying said performance in a report or other like
23 document or thing.

25 6. A method as in claim 1, wherein said fourth document is a second of exchange.

27 7. A method as in claim 1, wherein said third document is an invoice.

- 1 8. A method as in claim 1, wherein said second document having indicia indicating
2 information describing a commercial transaction is a pro-forma invoice.
3
4 9. A method as in claim 1, wherein the event which triggers the legal obligation of
5 said seller is said seller's parting with physical control of said goods or said seller's
6 performing said services.
7
8 10. A method as in claim 1, wherein said first document is a first of exchange.
9
10 11. A method as in claim 1, wherein said execution of said first document is done
11 by ink signature.
12
13 12. A method as in claim 1, wherein said execution of said first document is done
14 by facsimile signature.
15
16 13. A method as in claim 1, wherein said execution of said first document is done
17 by electronic signature.
18
19 14. A method as in claim 13, wherein said electronic signature is the product of a
20 confidential algorithm specific to the buyer.
21
22 15. A method as in claim 14, wherein said confidential algorithm is responsive to
23 an identification number associated with the buyer and the date of signature.
24
25 16. A method as in claim 1, wherein said indicia are printed with ink on a sheet of
26 paper or other similar material..
27
28 17. A method as in claim 1, wherein said indicia and said document are electronic.

- 1 18. A method for moving goods and/or services from a seller to a buyer and
- 2 involving transport of goods or a report or other like document or thing, while
- 3 assuring the movement of a payment for said goods and/or services from said
- 4 buyer to said seller, comprising the steps of:
- 5 (a) said buyer executing a first document having indicia purporting to legally bind
- 6 the buyer upon the happening of an event and sending to said seller said first
- 7 document having indicia purporting to legally bind the buyer upon the happening
- 8 of an event;
- 9 (b) said buyer executing a second document having indicia indicating information
- 10 describing a commercial transaction and sending to said seller said second
- 11 document having indicia indicating information describing a commercial
- 12 transaction;
- 13 (c) said seller notifying a financial institution respecting the execution and sending
- 14 of said first document having indicia purporting to legally bind the buyer upon the
- 15 happening of an event and said second document having indicia indicating
- 16 information describing a commercial transaction;
- 17 (d) said financial institution transmitting a transaction approval to said seller;
- 18 (e) said seller causing said event to occur;
- 19 (f) said seller sending to said buyer's transaction interface a third document,
- 20 entitling the holder of said third document to said goods or said report or other like
- 21 document or thing, and a fourth document having indicia purporting to legally
- 22 bind the buyer, upon execution of said fourth document and the happening of said
- 23 event; and
- 24 (g) said buyer's transaction interface advising said financial institution of the receipt
- 25 by said buyer's transaction interface of said third document.
- 26
- 27 19. A method as in claim 18, wherein said financial institution has implemented an
- 28 insurance feature triggered upon the failure of said buyer to make a payment at a

1 the end of a specified time period after the occurrence of said event, and further
 2 comprising the steps of:
 3 (h) said fourth document being presented to said buyer, and said buyer refusing or
 4 being unable to execute said fourth document;
 5 (i) said third document being sent to the insurer, and said insurer being given said
 6 third document;
 7 (j) said seller providing said first document to said financial institution; and
 8 (k) said financial institution issuing a fifth document purporting to obligate said
 9 financial institution to pay said seller a second payment.

10

11 20. A method for electronically monitoring and controlling the movement of goods
 12 and/or services from a seller to a buyer and involving transport of goods or a
 13 report or other like document or thing of value, and electronically executing a
 14 payment for said goods and/or services from said buyer to said seller, wherein the
 15 buyer, the seller, a financial institution, and a buyer's transaction interface are
 16 electronically connected over an information transport system, comprising the
 17 steps of:

18 (a) said buyer electronically sending to said seller a first packet or packets of
 19 information performing the function of a first conventional executed document
 20 having information purporting to legally bind said buyer upon the happening of an
 21 event;
 22 (b) said buyer electronically sending to said seller a second packet or packets of
 23 electronic information performing the function of a second conventional executed
 24 document having information describing a commercial transaction;
 25 (c) said seller sending a notification packet or packets of electronic information to
 26 said financial institution respecting the sending of said first and second packet or
 27 packets of electronic information;
 28 (d) said financial institution transmitting to said seller a packet or packets of

1 electronic information performing the function of a conventional transaction
2 approval;
3 (e) said seller causing said event to occur;
4 (f) said seller sending to said buyer's transaction interface a third packet or packets
5 of electronic information performing the function of a third document, said third
6 packet or packets of electronic information entitling said buyer's transaction
7 interface to said goods or said report or other like document or thing, and a fourth
8 packet or packets of electronic information, said information in said fourth packet
9 or packets including transaction information, performing the function of a fourth
10 document purporting to legally bind the buyer, upon acceptance by the buyer of
11 the terms of said fourth packet or packets of information and the happening of said
12 event;
13 (g) said transaction information contained in said fourth packet or packets of
14 information being presented to said buyer, and said buyer accepting the terms of
15 said transaction information;
16 (h) said fourth packet or packets of information amended to note the acceptance of
17 the terms of said transaction information by said buyer being sent in exchange for
18 rights associated with said third packet or packets of electronic information,
19 whereby rights created by the acceptance by the buyer of the terms of said
20 transaction information are in the possession of the buyer's transaction interface,
21 and rights associated with said third packet or packets of information are in the
22 possession of the buyer;
23 (i) said seller providing said first packet or packets of information to said financial
24 institution; and
25 (j) said financial institution transmitting a fifth packet or packets of electronic
26 information purporting to obligate said financial institution to pay said seller a
27 second payment.
28

1 21. A method as in claim 20, further comprising the steps of:
 2 (k) said buyer's transaction interface sending to said financial institution a sixth
 3 packet or packets of electronic information advising said financial institution of the
 4 receipt by said buyer's transaction interface of said third packet or packets of
 5 electronic information.

6
 7 22. A method as in claim 21, further comprising the steps of:
 8 (l) said buyer's transaction interface sending a seventh packet or packets of
 9 electronic information to said financial institution, said seventh packet or packets
 10 of electronic information representing a third payment; and
 11 (m) said financial institution sending an eighth packet or packets of electronic
 12 information representing a fourth payment to the holder of rights created by said
 13 fifth packet or packets, electronic information.

14
 15 23. A method as in claim 22, wherein said financial institution is the seller's bank,
 16 and said buyer's transaction interface is in the buyer's bank.

17
 18 24. A method as in claim 22, wherein said first packet or packets of chronic
 19 information performs the function of a first of exchange, said second packet or
 20 packets of electronic information performs the function of a pro-forma invoice, said
 21 third packet or packets of electronic information performs the function of an invoice
 22 and said fourth packet or packets of electronic information performs the function of
 23 a second of exchange.

24
 25 25. A method as in claim 1, wherein said second payment is said payment less a
 26 service fee.

27
 28

- 1 26. A trade finance method for financing the sale of a traded product supplied by a
2 seller to a buyer wherein, prior to supply of the traded product by the seller, the
3 buyer provides to the seller or the seller's agent, a buyer-executed payment draft
4 ordering payment for the traded product to be made at maturity of a term, wherein
5 the term is triggered by an event occurring subsequently to buyer execution of the
6 draft.
7
8 27. A method according to claim 26 wherein the payment draft is a prerelease
9 payment draft, prerelease in anticipation of a purchase.
10
11 28. A method according to claim 26 wherein the payment draft is a first bill of
12 exchange and the buyer executes a second bill of exchange for the amount of the
13 traded product prior to receiving the traded product, and wherein the first and
14 second bills of exchange are mutually extinguishable.
15
16 29. A method according to claim 28 comprising substituting a banker's acceptance
17 for the first bill of exchange.
18
19 30. A financial instrument comprising a pre-approved bill of exchange accepted in
20 advance by a buyer, payable to a seller, and evidencing willingness of the buyer to
21 pay the seller a sum certain of money at a specific point in future time, such time to
22 be determined by a pre-specified triggering event.
23
24 31. A financial instrument according to claim 30 and being in human-readable
25 form or machine-readable form.
26
27 32. A method of trade financing according to claim 26 effected by computer-
28 implemented software.

- 1 33. A method financing a sale of a traded product from a seller to a buyer
2 comprising:
3 a) acceptance by the buyer of a first payment draft ordering payment for the
4 traded product to be made at a maturity date subsequent to the date of
5 acceptance;
6 b) delivery of the buyer-accepted first payment draft to the seller or the seller's
7 agent;
8 c) retention by the seller or the seller's agent of the buyer-accepted first
9 payment draft as collateral for payment for the traded product;
10 c) acceptance by the buyer of a second payment draft ordering payment for the
11 traded product to be made at a maturity date no later than the first draft
12 maturity date, wherein the first and second drafts are interdependent in that
13 each draft is payable only if the other draft is unpaid; and
14 d) presentation of the second payment draft to the buyer or the buyer's agent to
15 collect payment for the traded product.
16
17 34. A method according to claim 33 wherein the first payment draft has a maturity
18 date determined as a fixed period subsequent to an event and the second payment
19 draft has the same maturity date as the first payment draft and wherein the first
20 and second payment drafts are mutually extinguishable, payment of one
21 extinguishing the other.
22

add a1

add D2

add E1